



This form is to be completed by all attending the conference and returned with full payment.

It is not the responsibility of the conference organisers to book your accommodation for the weekend. For those interested in staying at the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel please contact them directly to arrange a booking at 01 230 5556 or by e-mail reservations@fitzpatrickscastle.com or on their website www.fitzpatrickscastle.com and mention you are with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group to avail of the weekend conference rate (€130 per room per night for a single and €170 per room per night for a double).

A list of alternative accommodation in Killiney is available on <http://www.discoverireland.ie> or a wider selection is available in Dun Laoghaire.

Remember to bring warm clothes, wet gear, binoculars and telescopes for the land based whale watching outing on Saturday afternoon.

Please send completed booking form and payment to:
Faith Wilson
Conference Organiser
Irish Whale and Dolphin group
Hilltop Cottage, Kilcandra, Glenealy
Co. Wicklow.

Phone: 087 637 7328

E-mail: conference@iwdg.ie



Profile of invited speakers



Andrew Read

Duke University, Beaufort, North Carolina, USA

Andy is the Rachel Carson Associate Professor of Marine Conservation Biology at the Duke University Marine Laboratory. Andy was born in Southampton, England and educated in Canada. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Guelph in 1990 for research conducted on the life history and by-catches of harbour porpoises in the Bay of Fundy. He has conducted field research on marine mammals, sea birds and sea turtles in Canada, Mexico, the United States, South America and Europe. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN. He has served on the Editorial Boards of Marine Mammal Science and the Journal of Cetacean Research and Management. He lives with his wife, Kim Urian, in an old farm house in Gloucester, NC, with an assortment of cats and chickens.



Signe Sveegaard

National Environmental Research Institute, Aarhus University, Roskilde, Denmark

Signe finished her Masters degree at Copenhagen University in 2006, where she specialised in methods for examining harbour porpoise distribution. She was then employed by the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) in 2007 on a project aiming to identify areas of high porpoise density in Danish waters. The project contributed to the selection of Sites of Community Importance (SCI) for harbour porpoises (EU habitat Directive) in Denmark. In August 2007 she began a PhD project on the 'Spatial and temporal distribution of harbour porpoises in relation to their prey' at Aarhus University in co-operation with NERI. During April and May 2008 she conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment of a Wind Farm in Great Belt on marine mammals e.g. porpoises and seals.



Ben Wilson

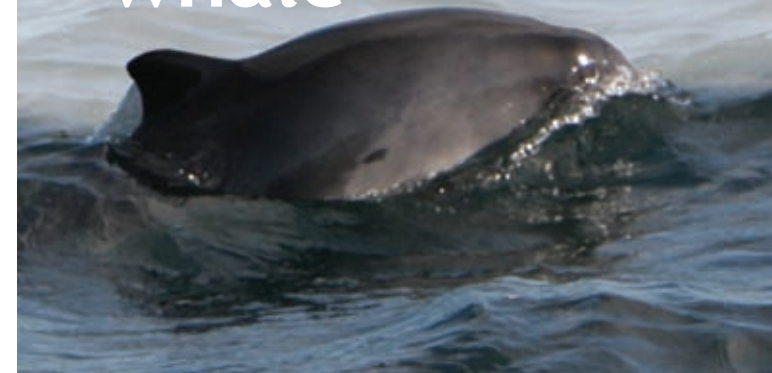
Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban, Argyll, Scotland

Ben has worked on marine mammals for 18 years, having started his career studying the ecology of bottlenose dolphins in NE Scotland. His discovery that dolphins were killing porpoises provided the first insight into the complex interspecific behaviours of these species. Interested in predator-prey relationships his research went on to investigate the effects of cetacean echolocation sound on their prey and revealed that herring make distinctive sounds of their own, leading to an IgNobel prize for the finding. Ben next investigated the complex behaviour of Steller sea lions in Alaska, foraging on fishes including herring. His latest work focuses on the potential conflicts between marine renewable energy devices (e.g. underwater turbines and offshore wind farms) and marine animals including porpoises.



Muc Mhara

Ireland's smallest whale



2nd IWDG International Whale Conference

Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel,
Killiney, Co Dublin

19th - 21st September 2008

Muc Mhara - Ireland's smallest whale 2nd IWDG International Whale Conference



The harbour porpoise is the smallest of all Irish cetaceans and is the most abundant and widespread cetacean species off Irish shores. They can be seen in all coastal waters. The harbour porpoise is recognised within Europe as being a species of

major conservation concern and thus is included on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, which requires member states to designate sites for its protection. Despite this, little is known about their ecology and due to their small size and elusive nature their conservation importance is often overlooked.

Invited guest speakers from overseas will provide an international perspective on our knowledge of harbour porpoises. Andy Read, who is the world's leading authority on harbour porpoise based on years of research in the Bay of Fundy, will join us from America. Signe Sveegaard, will share information with us on seasonal migrations derived from satellite telemetry in Denmark, while Ben Wilson from Scotland will be discussing how the introduction of wind, wave and tidal-stream technologies may pose a significant new threat to coastal marine mammal populations. We will also have an update on how the porpoise is faring in a pan-European context.

The conference will also present our current knowledge of this diminutive species in Irish Waters. Speakers include Simon Berrow, Co-ordinator of the IWDG, Emer Rogan of University College Cork, Ronan Cosgrove from Bord Iascaigh Mhara and David Lyons of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, who will present their current knowledge and research findings. This will include information emerging from monitoring surveys, post mortem studies, the use of 'pingers' in by-catch trials and conservation strategies in the Republic of Ireland.

On Saturday we will conduct a land based watch in Killiney Bay, which consistently produces superb porpoise sightings even to commuters using public transport when travelling to and from our capital city.

As anyone who attended the 'Mól Mór' conference in 2004 will remember, an IWDG conference promises to be a thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable affair. We look forward to seeing you there.

This conference will form part of Irelands' contribution to the UN/CMS Year of the Dolphin 2008.

Outline Programme

Friday 19 September 2008

19:00 – 20:00 Registration
20:00 Film Show – open to the Public

Saturday 20 September 2008

Theme: Our current knowledge and understanding of harbour porpoises – their habitat requirements and ecology

09:00 – 09:55 Registration
10:00 Welcome & Introduction
10:15 – 11:00 Life in the fast lane — ecology and behaviour of the harbour porpoise
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:00 What can post-mortems tell us about harbour porpoises in Irish waters?
12:00 – 12:30 Acoustic monitoring on the west coast of Ireland
12:30 – 13:00 Abundance estimates of harbour porpoises in Irish waters
13:00 – 14:15 Lunch
14:15 – 15:00 Satellite tracking in European Waters
15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break
16:00 Field excursion — land based porpoise watch at Killiney Bay
20:00 Conference Dinner
22:00 After Dinner Presentation

Sunday 21 September 2008

Theme: Monitoring and Protecting the Harbour Porpoise in Irish Waters

09:00 – 09:55 Registration
10:15 – 11:00 A cost of green energy: Are offshore renewable devices a threat to porpoises?
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:15 Porpoise populations and protection in the EU
12:15 – 12:45 An assessment of 'Pingers' and porpoise by-catch rates in Irish Gillnet Fisheries
12:45 – 14:15 Lunch
14:15 – 14:50 Harbour porpoise conservation in the Republic of Ireland — an official view
14:50 – 15:10 Coffee Break
15:10 – 16:00 Discussion
16:00 Close of Conference

**Muc Mhara - Ireland's smallest whale
2nd IWDG International Whale Conference**
Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney, Co Dublin
19-21 September 2008

Conference Booking Form

Name
Address

Telephone
E-mail

**Conference fee IWDG Member (€75)
Non-Member (€100) Student/Unemployed (€50)**

Conference Dinner €60.
Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements, e.g. Vegetarian, Vegan or Gluten free.

Signature

Do you require a receipt? Yes No

Payment Cheque/PO €

(Make all cheques/Postal Orders payable to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group)

Card Type: (please circle) Visa/Mastercard/Laser

Amount €

Cardholder's Printed Name (as stated on the card)

Card Number

Signed

Card Expiry Date

Security Code (located on back of card)

You can also book online on our website www.iwdg.ie